

Construction Commences

At the Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj Centre For Behavioral Studies and Research at the University Of Guyana



Professor Ivelaw Griffith and Jay Sobhraj signing the contract.



Sobhraj team and UG REPS at the signing Ceremony



Jay Sobhraj, founder of the project

It's finally becoming a reality, the establishing of the very first school for Psychology majors at the University of Guyana. Buddy's Construction was awarded the contract to renovate what is known as the "Spicy Dish" building on the university campus to a modern facility. The expected completion date is December 31, 2018.

At a time when Guyana is going through a serious mental health crisis and with

a severe shortage of qualified mental health professionals to help, this centre could not have come at a better time.

The modern state of the art facility will also house a bookstore, food court, model counseling centre, student gym, and prayer rooms. It will also have an extended Medex Station and cater to various programs including psychology, social work, criminology, and psychiatry. There will also be multiple therapy rooms, which

will be used to treat mentally ill patients, as well as educate persons in the clinical psychology program.

The University of Guyana will offer a master's program in clinical psychology, a bachelor's program, and two years diploma program. These programs will aid to battle the high rate of mental health challenges while reducing the shortage of mental health professionals. The Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj Centre for Behavioral Studies and Re-

search Centre will complement the mental health department which was established by the Ministry of Public Health. The department is currently training Mental Health Practitioners to work with mentally challenged persons. Over 100 such practitioners have been trained to date.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2017), Guyana is the country with the highest suicide mortality rate in the Americas region at

a rate of 29.0 per 100,000.

In April 2018, during the handing over ceremony, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Paloma Mohamed highlighted that this was the first major gift by a private individual or foundation to the University of Guyana

Meanwhile, founder Jay Sobhraj, said his education was made possible through grants, and he is grateful that he is now in a position to give back to his homeland.